



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
10117 PRINCESS PALM DRIVE, SUITE 120
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 31, 2008

Tampa Regulatory Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2008-1434 (IP-JPF)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This district has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as described below.

APPLICANT: Polk County BOCC
Drawer PW-02, Box 9005
Bartow, FL 33831-9005

WATERWAY & LOCATION: The project site involves proposed impacts to wetlands and surface waters located along Harden Boulevard from Pipkin Road north to Beaker Road, in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Township 29 South, Range 23 East, Polk County, Florida. The project is within the Alafia River Watershed.

Directions to the site are as follows: From Tampa, take I-4 east to Polk Parkway, take Polk Parkway east to Harden Boulevard, and take Harden Boulevard south to site.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE: Latitude 27.979374
Longitude -81.973342

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: To improve an intersection and widen a section of an existing roadway to provide improved transportation capacity.

Overall: To improve the Harden Boulevard/Pipkin Road intersection and widen a segment of Harden Boulevard in Polk County to meet a need for additional transportation capacity in that area and adjacent areas

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to impact approximately 1.84 acres of waters of the United States for the road improvements. The impacts include 0.6 acre of impact to ditches and other surface waters and 1.24 acres of impacts to freshwater hardwood wetlands.

Avoidance and Minimization Information: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

The applicant states that the project design reflects all practicable measures for avoidance and minimization of impacts. The project site, along the alignments of the existing roadways, was the most practicable location for the activity. The project was planned and designed with a view to minimizing impacts to wetland resources, including best management practices in areas of wetland construction.

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

The applicant proposes to create a 1.65-acre freshwater hardwood wetland. The applicant provided a functional analysis using UMAM indicating that the proposed mitigation will offset the functional loss associated with the wetland impacts.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The wetland systems are predominantly freshwater hardwood wetlands that have been moderately to severely disturbed by historic activities, including mining and drainage.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area contains habitat suitable for the eastern indigo snake and the wood stork.

If a permit is issued, it will include the most recent standard protection measures for the eastern indigo snake, and suitable compensation for the loss of the storks' wetland foraging habitat.

The Corps has determined the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the eastern indigo snake and wood stork, or their critical habitat. The Corps used the September 2008 Eastern Indigo Snake and Wood Stork Keys for Central and North Peninsular Florida to make these determinations, and therefore no further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified. The jurisdictional line has not been verified by Corps personnel.

AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES: The Southwest Florida Water Management District issued Environmental Resource Permit number 43002514.003 to the applicant on October 28, 2008.

Comments regarding the application should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer at the above address within 21 days from the date of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact John Fellows at the letterhead address, by electronic mail at john.p.fellows@usace.army.mil, by telephone at (813) 769-7067, or by fax at (813) 769-7061.

The decision whether to issue or deny this permit application will be based on the information received from this public notice and the evaluation of the probable impact to the associated wetlands. This is based on an analysis of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the project, as well as the compensatory mitigation proposed.

IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Services, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area. By means of this notice, we are soliciting comments on the potential effects of the project on threatened or endangered species or their habitat.


IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Presently, unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

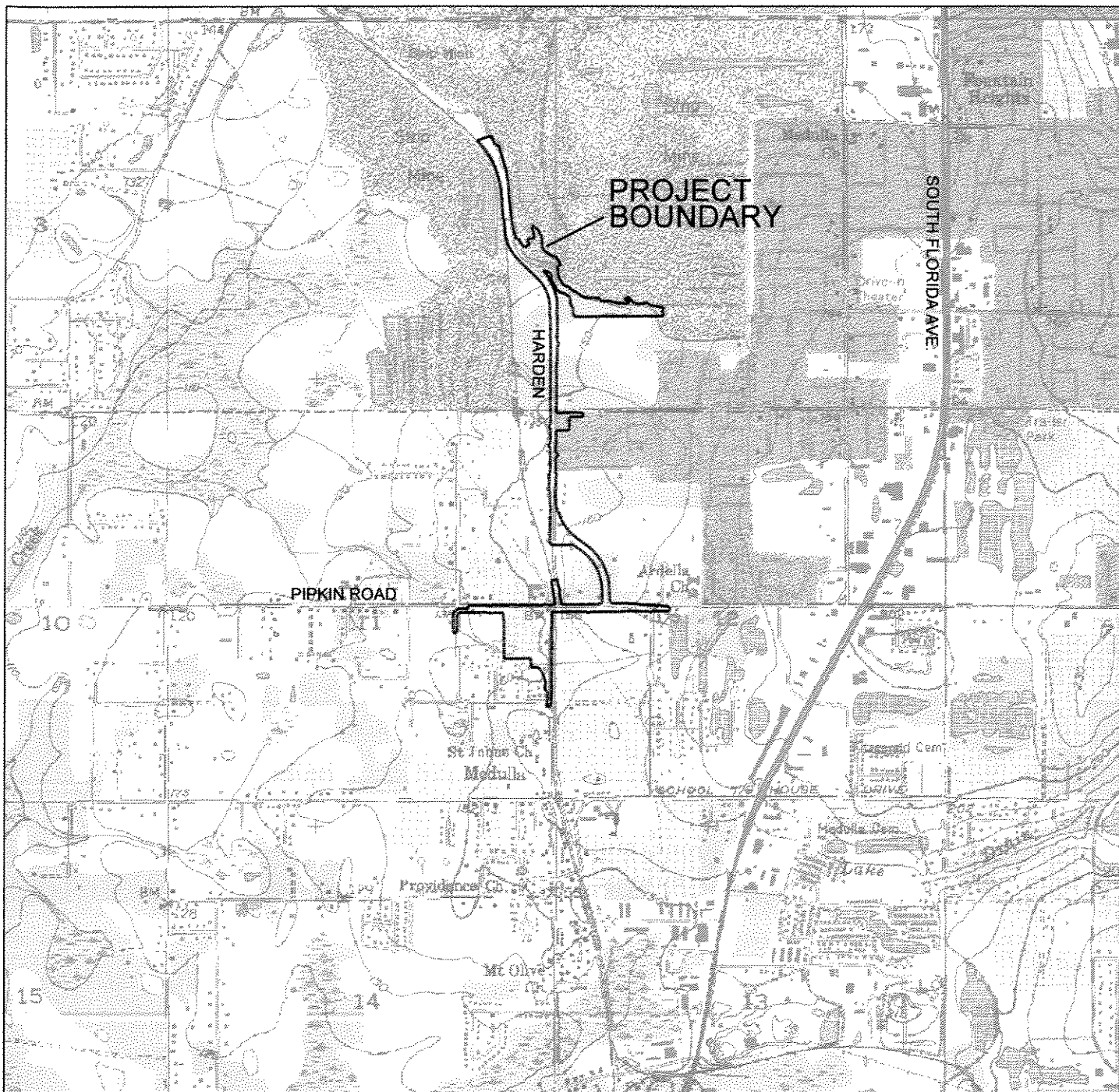
EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act of the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine, Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make or deny this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board. In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance with approved Coastal Zone Management Plan.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.


David S. Hobbie
Regulatory Division



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Polk County BOCC
Sheet 1 of 8
December 31, 2008

NOTES:

1. BASE MAP TAKEN FROM 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE, MULBERRY FLORIDA, 1987.
2. COORDINATES FOR PROJECT: Lot N27deg 59.0min, Long W81deg 58.5min.



SCALE



HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

WETLAND ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN
 FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC

SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK COUNTY, FL.

BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

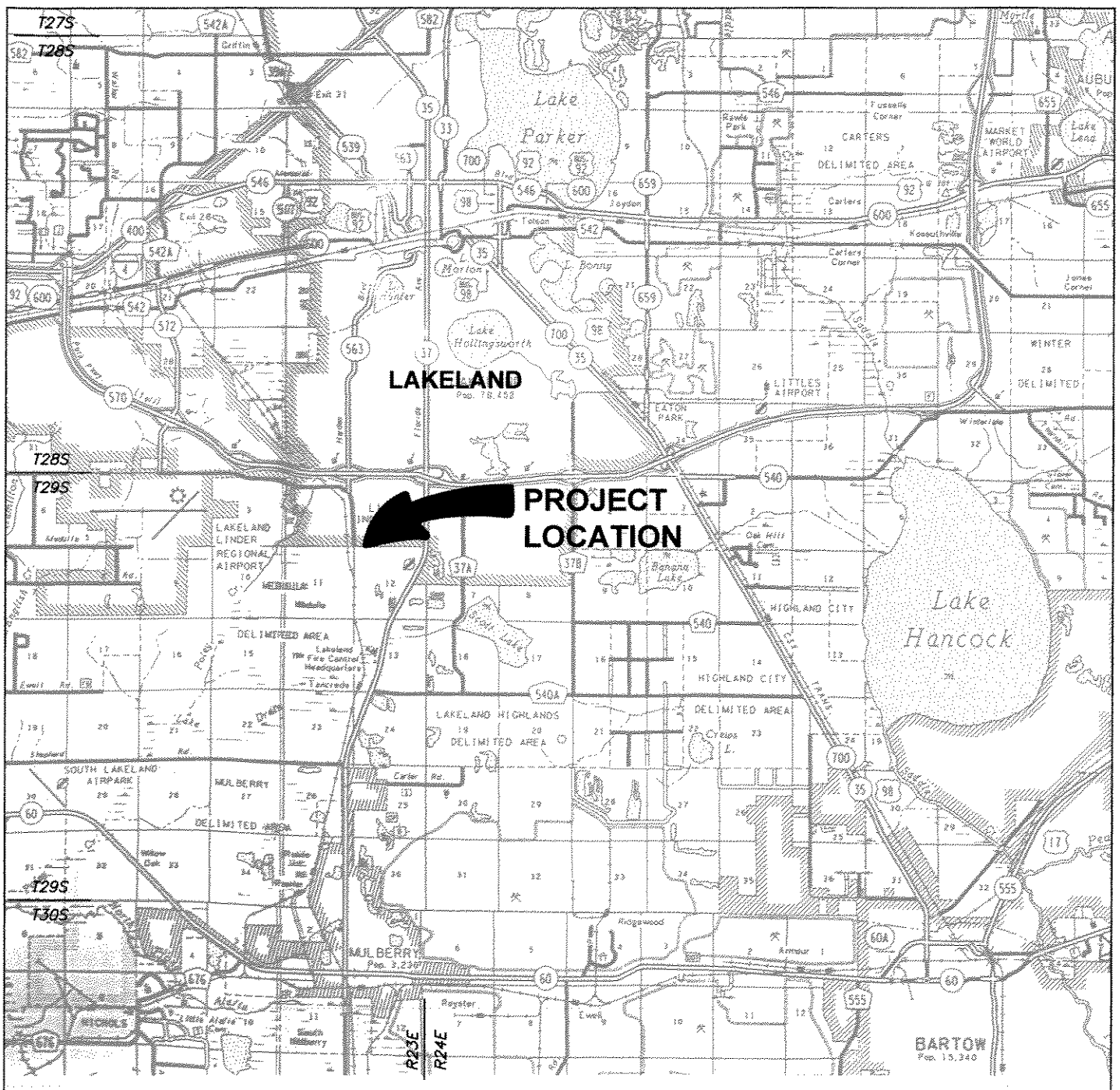
DATE: 11/14/08

FILE: 2-USGS.DWG

REVISED:

FIGURE 2

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



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SCALE



NOTES:

1. BASE MAP TAKEN FROM GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 2003.

HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
WETLAND ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN
FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC
SECTIONS 1, 2, 11, AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK CO., FL.

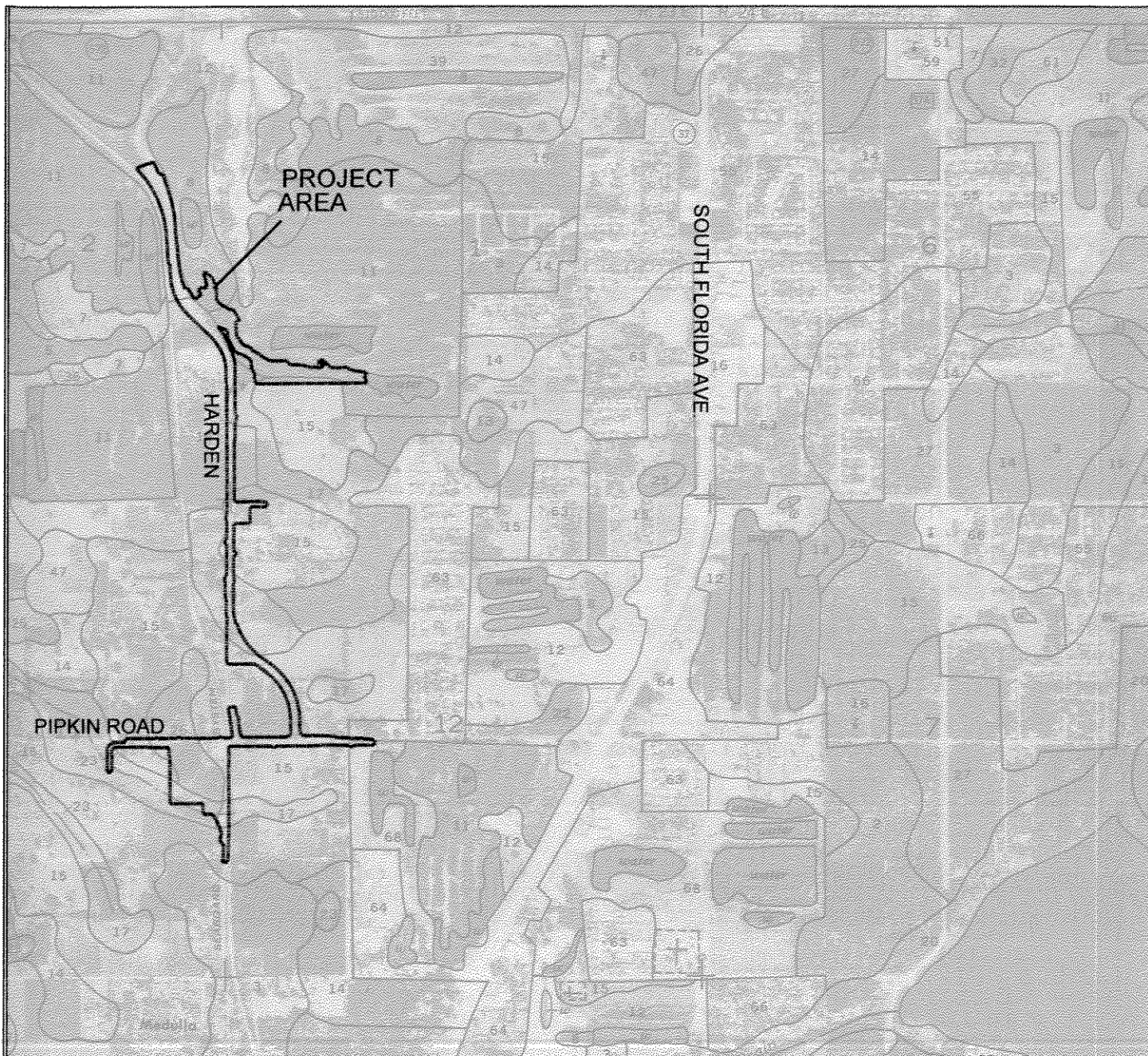
FIGURE 1
VICINITY MAP

BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

DATE: 11/14/08

FILE: 1--VICINITY.DWG

REVISED:



TYPE DESCRIPTION

- 8 HYDRAQUENTS, CLAYEY (95% HYDRIC)
- 11 ARENTS-WATER COMPLEX (5% HYDRIC)
- 12 NEILHURST SAND, 1 TO 5% SLOPES (5% HYDRIC)
- 14 SPARR SAND, 0 TO 5% SLOPES (0% HYDRIC)
- 15 TAVARES FINE SAND, 0 TO 5% SLOPES (0% HYDRIC)
- 17 SMYRNA AND MYAKKA FINE SANDS (25% HYDRIC)
- 23 ONA FINE SAND (15% HYDRIC)
- 26 LOCHLOOSA FINE SAND (0% HYDRIC)
- 30 POMPAÑO FINE SAND (100% HYDRIC)

NOTE:

BASE MAP TAKEN FROM SOIL SURVEY OF POLK COUNTY,
SHEET 65. USDA SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, 1990.

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FEET

HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

WETLAND ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN
FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC

SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

DATE: 11/14/08

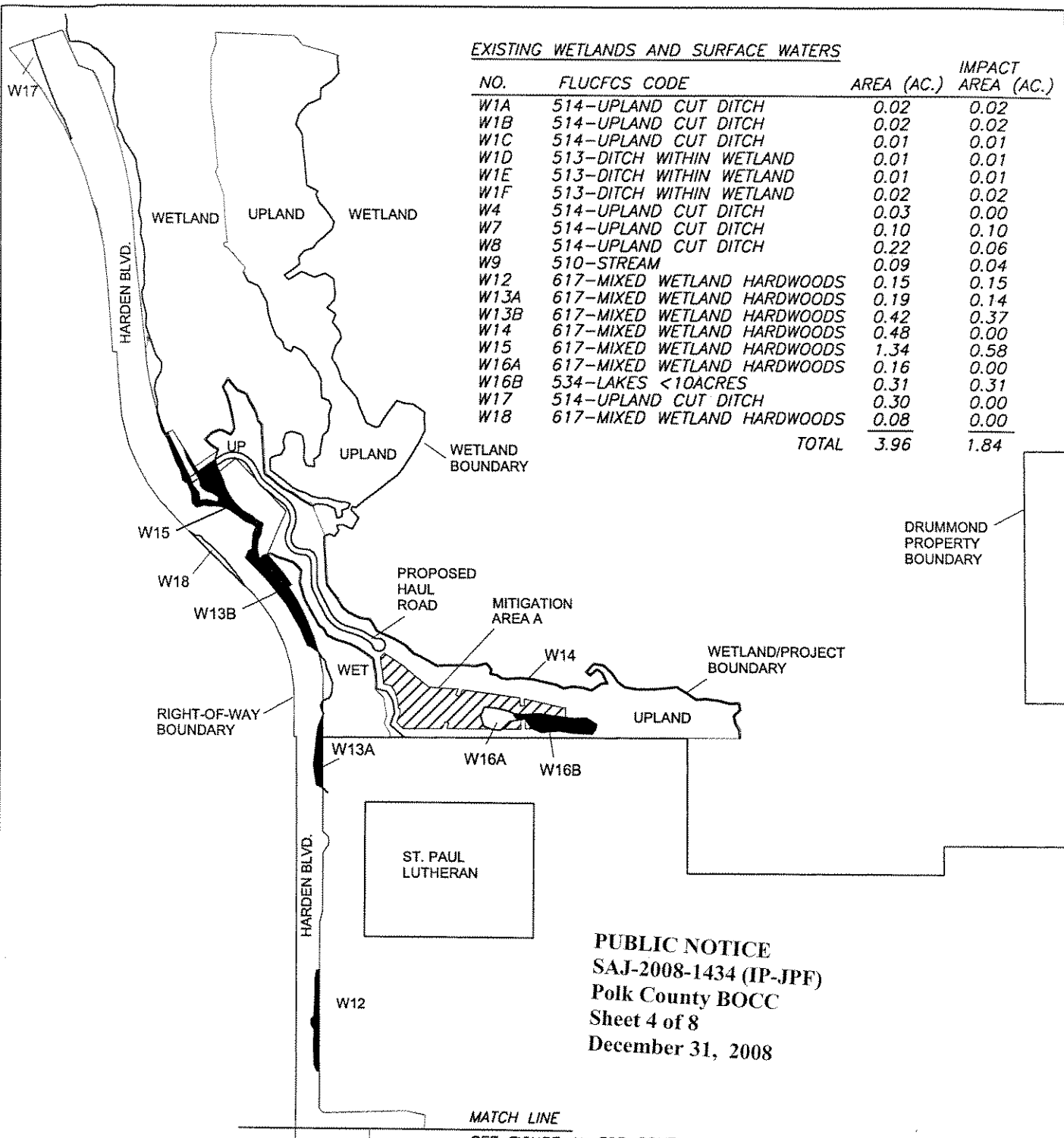
FILE: 3-SOILS.DWG

REVISED:

FIGURE 3
SOILS MAP

EXISTING WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATERS



NO.	FLUCFCS CODE	AREA (AC.)	IMPACT AREA (AC.)
W1A	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.02	0.02
W1B	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.02	0.02
W1C	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.01	0.01
W1D	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.01	0.01
W1E	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.01	0.01
W1F	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.02	0.02
W4	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.03	0.00
W7	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.10	0.10
W8	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.22	0.06
W9	510-STREAM	0.09	0.04
W12	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.15	0.15
W13A	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.19	0.14
W13B	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.42	0.37
W14	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.48	0.00
W15	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	1.34	0.58
W16A	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.16	0.00
W16B	534-LAKES <10ACRES	0.31	0.31
W17	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.30	0.00
W18	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.08	0.00
TOTAL		3.96	1.84



DRUMMOND
PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

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LEGEND

-  WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS (1.84 AC.)
-  MITIGATION AREA A (1.65 AC.)
TYPE 617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS

NOTES:

1. WETLAND BOUNDARIES WERE DELINEATED BY ECOLOGISTS OF RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND SURVEYED BY CHASTAIN SKILLMAN, INC.



SCALE



MATCH LINE

SEE FIGURE 4b FOR SOUTH HALF OF PROJECT

HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

WETLAND ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN
FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC
SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

DATE: 11/14/08

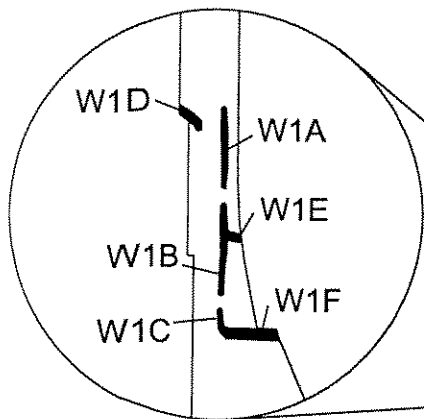
FILE: FIGURE 4A-IMPACTS

REVISED:

FIGURE 4a

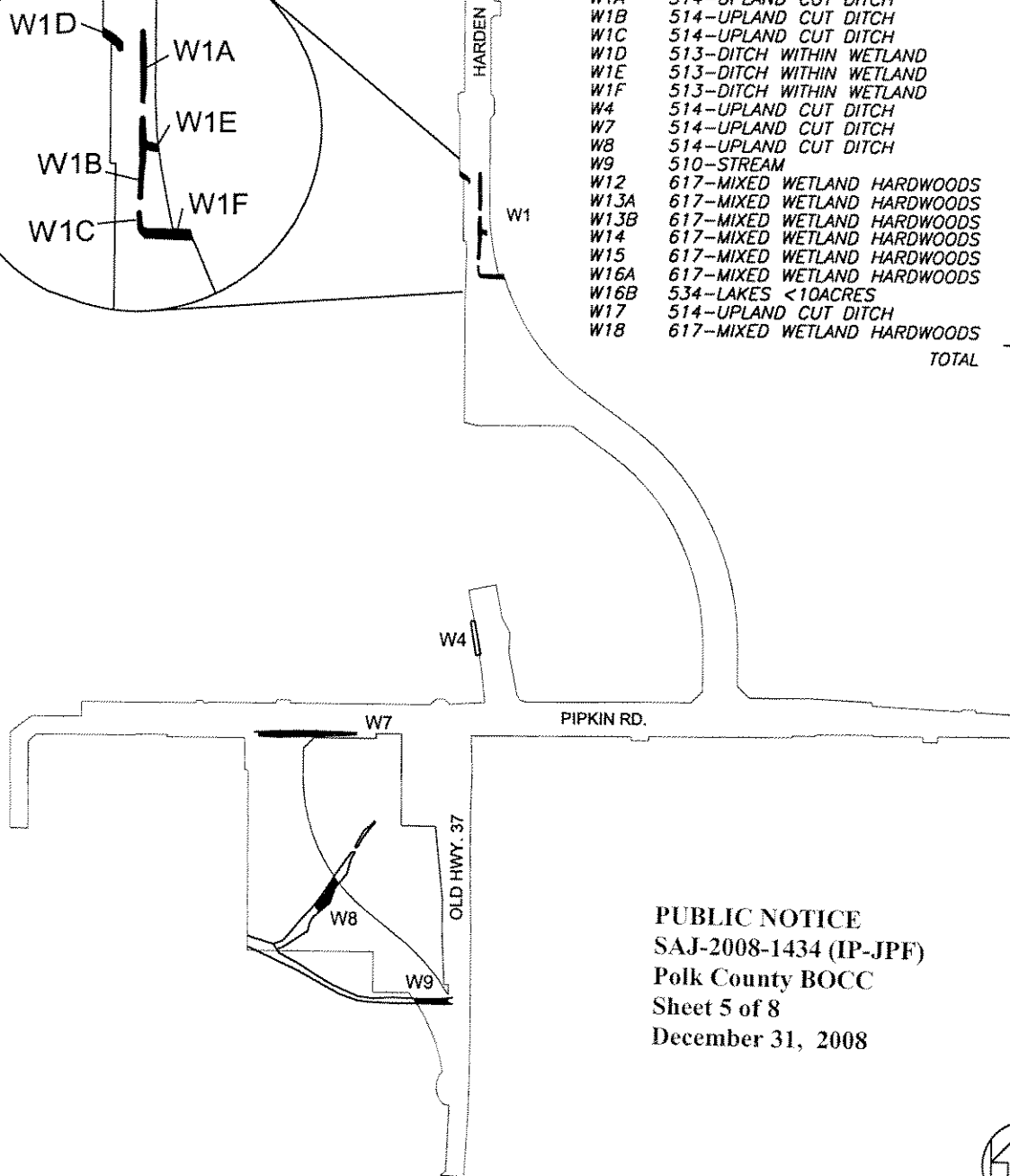
PROPOSED IMPACTS AND MITIGATION (NORTH HALF)

SEE FIGURE 4a FOR NORTH HALF OF PROJECT
MATCH LINE




EXISTING WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATERS

NO.	FLUCFCS CODE	AREA (AC.)	IMPACT AREA (AC.)
W1A	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.02	0.02
W1B	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.02	0.02
W1C	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.01	0.01
W1D	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.01	0.01
W1E	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.01	0.01
W1F	513-DITCH WITHIN WETLAND	0.02	0.02
W4	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.03	0.00
W7	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.10	0.10
W8	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.22	0.06
W9	510-STREAM	0.09	0.04
W12	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.15	0.15
W13A	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.19	0.14
W13B	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.42	0.37
W14	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.48	0.00
W15	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	1.34	0.58
W16A	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.16	0.00
W16B	534-LAKES <10ACRES	0.31	0.31
W17	514-UPLAND CUT DITCH	0.30	0.00
W18	617-MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS	0.08	0.00
TOTAL		3.96	1.84



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LEGEND

 WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS (1.84 AC.)

NOTES:

1. WETLAND BOUNDARIES WERE DELINEATED BY ECOLOGISTS OF RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND SURVEYED BY CHASTAIN SKILLMAN, INC.



SCALE



HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC
SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

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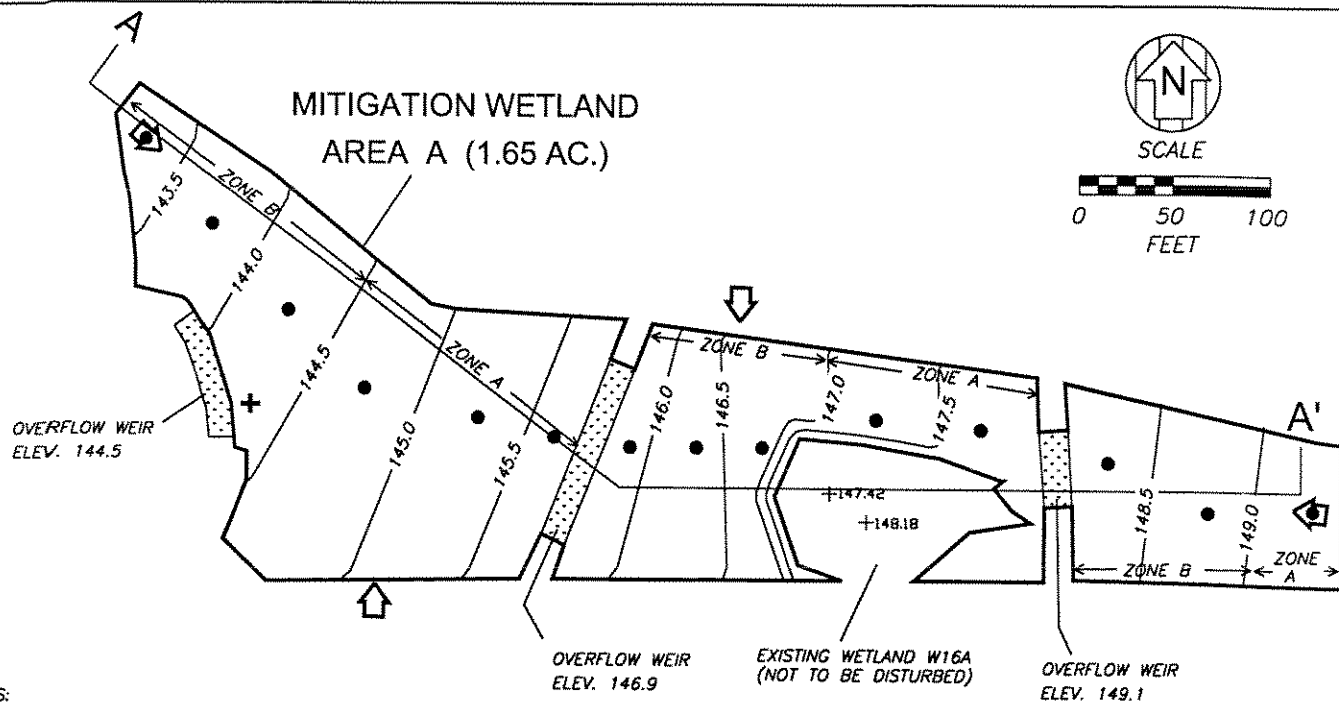
DATE: 11/14/08

FILE: FIGURE 4A-IMPACTS

REVISED:

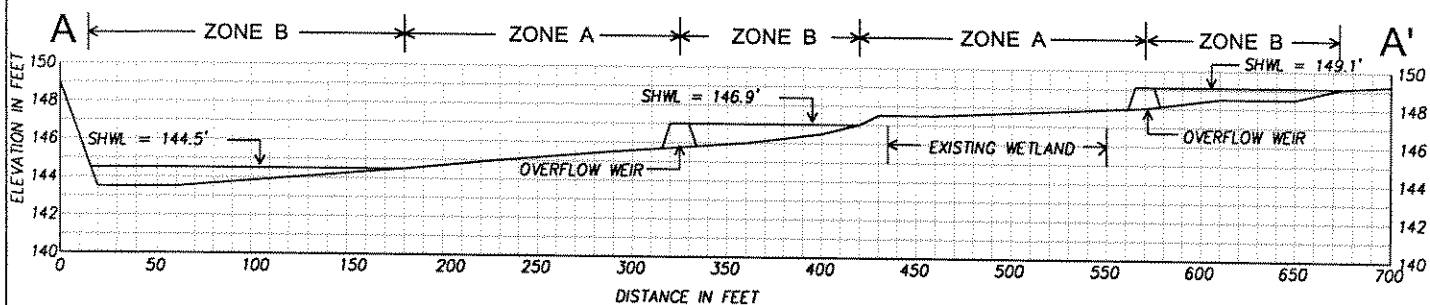
FIGURE 4b

PROPOSED IMPACTS AND
MITIGATION (SOUTH HALF)



NOTES:

1. BOTTOM OF MITIGATION AREA CORRESPONDS TO APPROX. SHWT OF SOIL.
2. SEE CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR CONTOURS OF SIDE SLOPES AND DETAILS OF OVERFLOW WEIRS.
3. SHWL CORRESPONDS TO ELEVATION OF OVERFLOW WEIRS.



PLANTING PLAN

TREES		STATUS	ZONE A	ZONE B
AMERICAN ELM	ULMUS AMERICANA	FACW	X	X
DAHOON HOLLY	ILEX CASSINE	OBL		X
HACKBERRY	CELTIS LAEVIGATA	FACW	X	
LAUREL OAK	QUERCUS LAURIFOLIA	FACW	X	
RED MAPLE	ACER RUBRUM	FACW	X	
SWAMP TUPELO	NUSSA SYLVATICA	OBL		X
SWEET BAY	MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA	OBL		X
SWEETGUM	LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA	FACW	X	
WATER HICKORY	CARYA AQUATICA	OBL		X
WATER OAK	QUERCUS NIGRA	FACW	X	

HERBACEOUS

		STATUS	ZONE A	ZONE B
ARROWHEAD	SAGITTARIA SPP.	OBL		X
BLUE FLAG	IRIS VIRGINICA	OBL	X	X
CORDGRASS	SPARTINA BAKERI	FACW	X	
LIZARDS TAIL	SAURURUS CERNUUS	OBL		X
MAIDENCANE	PANICUM HEMITOMON	OBL	X	X
MUHL GRASS	MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS	OBL	X	X
PICKERELWEED	PONTERDERIA CORDATA	OBL		X
SHEILD FERN	THELYPTERIS SP.	FACW	X	
SOFTTRUSH	JUNCUS EFFUSUS	OBL	X	X
SPIKERUSH	ELEOCHARIS SP.	OBL		X
CHAIN FERN	WOODWARDIA VIRGINICA	FACW	X	

NOTES:

1. TREES PLANTED AT 435 PER ACRE (10 FT SPACING).
2. HERBACEOUS SPECIES PLANTED AT 4,840 PER ACRE (3 FT SPACING).
3. NO SINGLE TREE SPECIES WILL COMPRISE MORE THAN 30% OF TOTAL TREES.
4. TREE SIZES: 50% ONE-GALLON, 25% THREE-GALLON, 25% SEVEN-GALLON.
5. QUANTITY AND PLACEMENT OF EACH SPECIES TO BE DETERMINED AFTER SITE INSPECTION OF FINAL GRADING.
6. SIDE SLOPES AROUND MITIGATION TO BE PLANTED WITH CORDGRASS (3 FT CENTERS).

- VEGETATION SAMPLING STATIONS
- ⬆ PHOTOGRAPH STATION
- ⊕ STAFF GAUGE OR PIEZOMETER

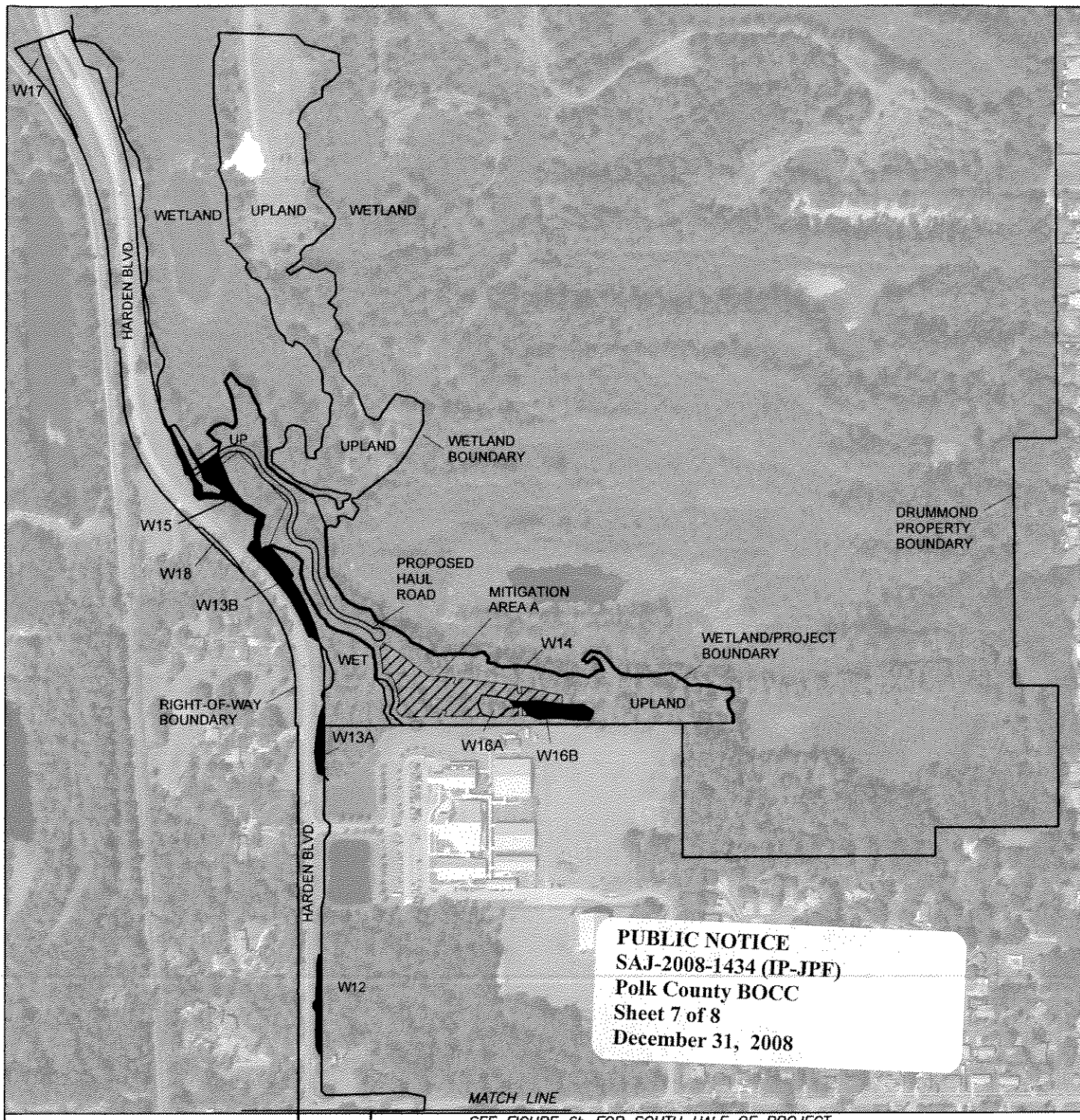
PUBLIC NOTICE
SAJ-2008-1434 (IP-JPF)
Polk County BOCC
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December 31, 2008

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FIGURE 5
MITIGATION "AREA A" DETAILS

BY: RUES
FILE: 7-Mi



SEE FIGURE 6b FOR SOUTH HALF OF PROJECT

LEGEND

 WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS (1.84 AC.)

 MITIGATION AREA A (1.65 AC.)
 TYPE 617—MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS

NOTES:

1. WETLAND BOUNDARIES WERE DELINEATED BY ECOLOGISTS OF RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND SURVEYED BY CHASTAIN SKILLMAN, INC.



SCALE



HARDEN / PIPKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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 FOR POLK COUNTY BOCC
 SECTIONS 1, 2, 11 AND 12 (T29S, R23E), POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

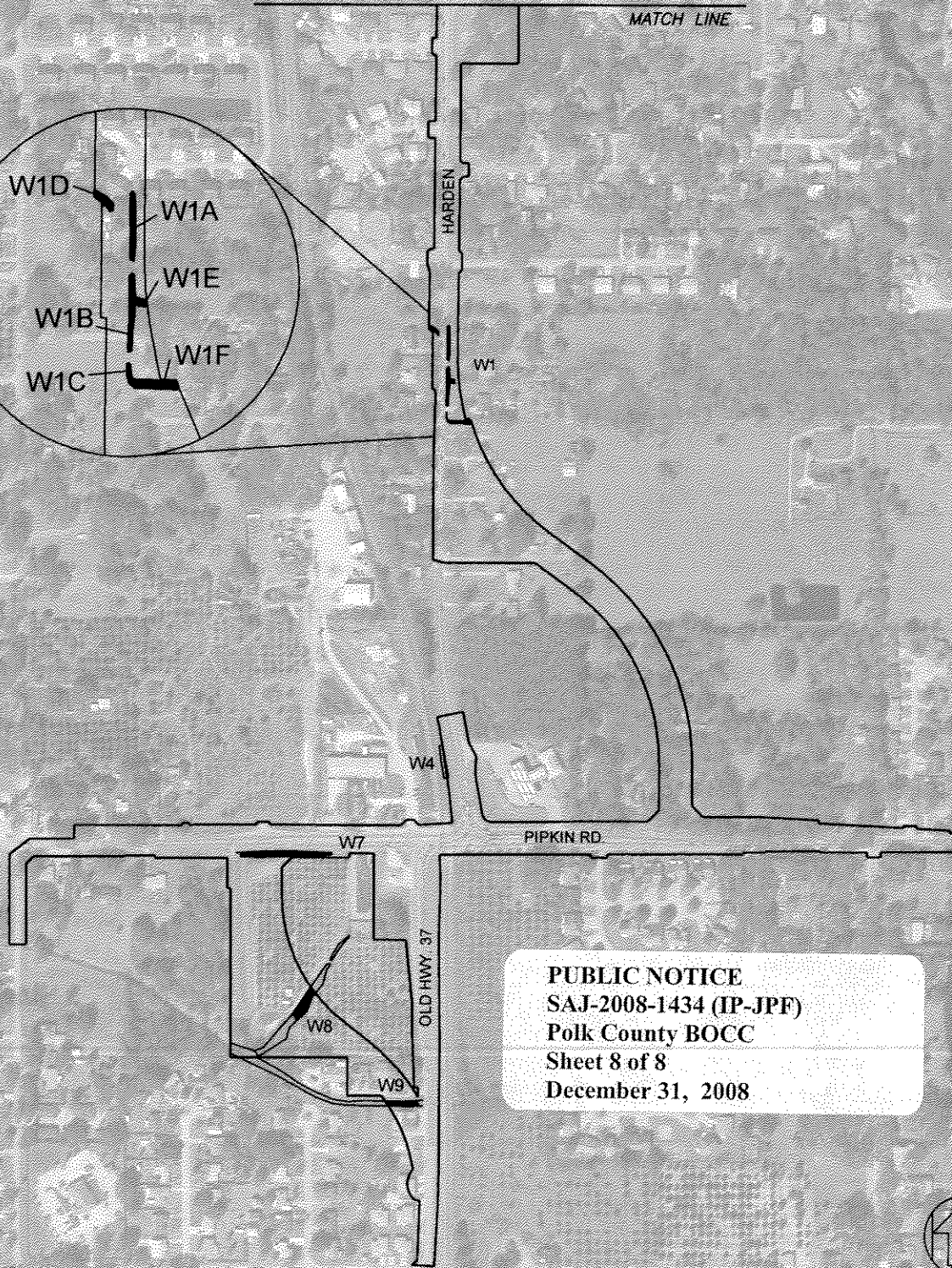
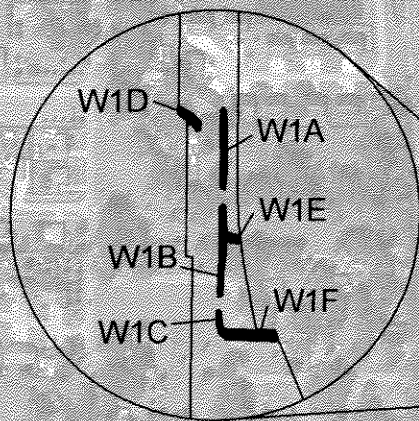
DATE: 11/14/08

FILE: FIGURE 6A—AERIAL

REVISED:

FIGURE 6a
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
(NORTH HALF)

SEE FIGURE 6a FOR NORTH HALF OF PROJECT
MATCH LINE



PUBLIC NOTICE
SAJ-2008-1434 (IP-JPF)
Polk County BOCC
Sheet 8 of 8
December 31, 2008



LEGEND



WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS (1.84 AC.)

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BY: RUESCH ENVIRONMENTAL SERV., INC.

DATE: 11/14/08

FILE: FIGURE 6B-AERIAL

REVISED:

FIGURE 6b

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
(SOUTH HALF)**